

64
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COMICS

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4

STARRING **THE SHIELD!!**
G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY





WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

THE SHIELD

G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY



JOE HIGGINS, G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY, IS THE SHIELD-ONLY ONE LIVING MAN KNOWS THE SHIELD'S TRUE IDENTITY--AND THAT MAN IS THE CHIEF OF THE F.B.I. THE SHIELD IN ACTION IS BULLET AND FLAME PROOF, AND HAS THE POWER TO PERFORM EXTRAORDINARY FEATS OF PHYSICAL DARING AND COURAGE. WITH THE SPEED OF A BULLET AND THE STRENGTH OF A HERCULES, HE DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO SHIELDING THE GOVERNMENT FROM ALL ENEMIES.

BY IRVING NOVICK AND HARRY SHORTEN

JOE HIGGINS OF THE F.B.I. IS ON HIS WAY TO THE WASHINGTON DC AIRPORT.



IT CAME FROM THIS DIRECTION I'D BETTER SEE WHAT HAPPENED.



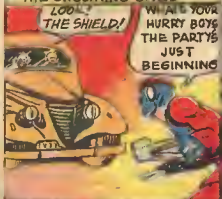
TWO CARS SPEED AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE BLAST.



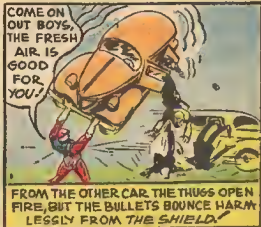
FOR THE MOMENT HIGGINS IS UNSEEN BY ANY HUMAN EYE--INSTANTLY HE DOPFS HIS OUTER CLOTHING AND IS REVEALED AS--



HE SPRINGS IN THE PATH OF THE ONCOMING CARS



COME ON OUT BOYS, THE FRESH AIR IS GOOD FOR YOU!



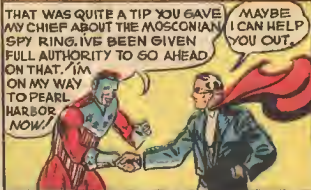
FROM THE DEBRIS BURSTS ANOTHER AWE
INSPIRING FIGURE!

TWO MOST LEGENDARY FIGURES, THE
MOST POTENT FORCES AGAINST INJUSTICE
THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, MEET!



THE WIZARD!

THE SHIELD!



THAT WAS QUITE A TIP YOU GAVE
MY CHIEF ABOUT THE MOSCONIAN
SPY RING. I'VE BEEN GIVEN
FULL AUTHORITY TO GO AHEAD
ON THAT. I'M
ON MY WAY
TO PEARL
HARBOR
NOW!

MAYBE
I CAN HELP
YOU OUT.



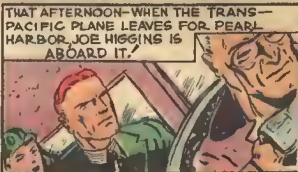
THE
MOSCONIANS
HAVE THEIR HEAD
QUARTERS IN KUALA

THE WIZARD BRINGS
HIS SUPER BRAIN INTO PLAY



WELL, SO LONG,
I'M ON MY WAY!!
AND THANKS.

SO LONG!
AND GOOD
LUCK!



THAT AFTERNOON—WHEN THE TRANS—
PACIFIC PLANE LEAVES FOR PEARL
HARBOR, JOE HIGGINS IS
ABOARD IT!

IN THE MOSCONIAN'S HAWAIIAN
ISLAND HEADQUARTERS!
THE ARMY AND NAVY WILL SOON
ARRIVE FOR SPECIAL DEFENSE
MANEUVERS. WE HAFF AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR GREAT SABOTAGE!



RUIN THE FIRST LINE
OF DEFENSE UND
DENN OUR MOSCON-
AN GOVERNMENT
VADES!

JOE HIGGINS' PLANE
SOON REACHES PEARL
HARBOR, AND THE
GOVERNMENT AGENT
SEES A STARTLING
SIGHT.



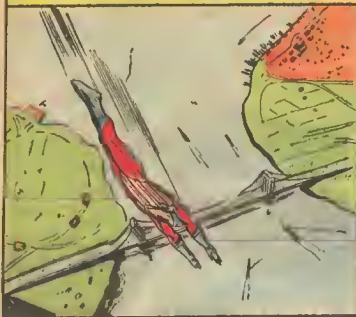
GREAT GUNS! MOSCON-
IAN BOMBERS! THEY'RE
AIMING FOR THAT
BRIDGE!

THE SHIELD LEAPS TO
WHAT SEEMS CERTAIN
DEATH!



THIS IS
WHERE I
GET OFF!

A TEN THOUSAND FOOT PLUNGE!



ABOARD THE U.S.S. MANILA AT ANCHOR IN PEARL HARBOR.



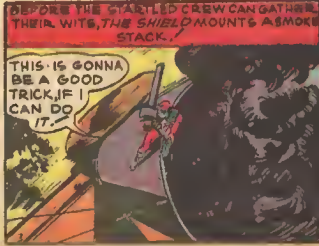
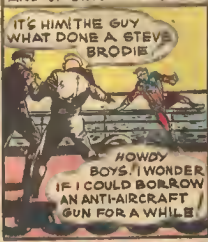
THE SHIELD MAKES FOR THE BATTLESHIP WITH POWERFUL STROKES



LIKE A HUMAN FLY THE SHIELD CLIMBS UP THE SIDE OF THE SHIP!



AND UP ONTO THE DECK



THE SHIELD BRINGS EVERY OUNCE OF HIS GIANT MUSCLES INTO PLAY, AND LEAPS



THE TOP OF THE BRIDGE WILL MAKE A GOOD PERCH

ATOP THE HIGHEST TOWER OF THE BRIDGE THE SHIELD TAKES HIS POSITION.



AND NOW FOR A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE!

A MOSCONIAN BOMBER ABOVE GIVES INSTRUCTIONS



BE READY TO RELEASE BOMBS, UND DENN VE GO BACK QVICK TO KUALA.

BUT BEFORE THE SIGNAL CAN BE GIVEN, THE SHIELD'S GUN SCRENCHES A SYMPHONY OF DEATH!



COME AND GET IT BOYS! IT'S ON THE HOUSE!



ONE PL THE HOWEVER, MANAGES TO RELEASE ITS MISSILE OF INSTRUCTION

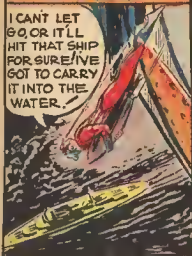
BUT THE SHIELD LEAPS AND CATCHES THE BOMB BEFORE IT CAN STRIKE!



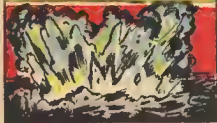
THIS IS ONE BOMB THAT'LL DESTROY NO BRIDGES!

THE SHIELD HAS SAVED THE BRIDGE, BUT NOW THE BATTLESHIP IS BELOW.

I CAN'T LET GO, OR IT'LL HIT THAT SHIP FOR SURE! I'VE GOT TO CARRY IT INTO THE WATER.



THE SHIELD RISKS HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS!



ONLY THE SHIELD'S HERCULEAN VITALITY IS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE GAS. HE SWIMS ASHORE

IM-IM AS WEAK AS A KITTEN!



GRAB HIM! HE MUST BE PUT OUT OF THE WAY, OR HE WILL RUIN ALL OUR PLANS!



THE SHIELD IS AMBUSHED!

THESE SOLID STEEL CHAINS WILL HOLD YOU FOR A WHILE, MR. SHIELD!

HA HA! NOW YOU'VE HOW HIM A FEW MOSCONIAN TRICKS!



THEY ARRIVE AT THE MOSCONIAN FORTRESS IN KUALA!



SO, YOU LIKE TO PLAY VID BOMBS, EH?



WELL YOU WILL BE TICKLED TO DEATH VID DIS TOY! SHOVE HIM IN DOT CANNON GOOT.

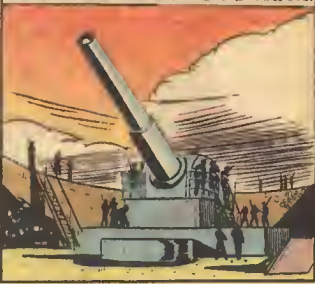


INSIDE THE CANNON—

GOSH, THIS IS A SPOT I WON'T EVEN BE GOOD DOGMEAT IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!



THE MOSCONIANS AIM THE GIANT GUN AT THE SHIPS ANCHORED IN PEARL HARBOR!



BUT THE SHIELD HAS THE IDEAS, THE EFFECT OF THE GAS HAS WORN OFF, SO HE FLEXES HIS GIANT MUSCLES, AND....



HE PLACES HIS HANDS ON THE SHELL AND MOVES IT BACKWARDS TO KEEP THE BACK OF THE CANNON OPEN—



JUST AS THE MOSCONIANS START TO SWING SHUT THE BREECH



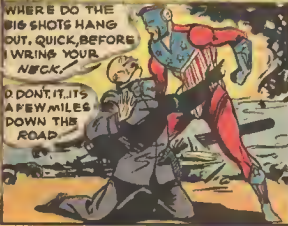
THE FIRING PIN MAKES CONTACT, BUT THE BREECH IS OPEN, THE SHELL BACKFIRES, AND THE WHOLE BASE OF THE GUN—CREW AND ALL IS DESTROYED!



THE SHIELD LEAPS FROM THE WRECKAGE AND CORNERS ONE OF THE MOSCONIANS

WHERE DO THE BIG SHOTS HANG OUT, QUICK, BEFORE I WRING YOUR NECK!

DON'T, IT'S A FEW MILES DOWN THE ROAD.



THE SHIELD STREAKS TOWARD MOSCONIAN HEADQUARTERS.

NOW I'M GETTING SOMEWHERE!



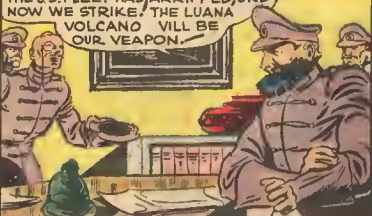
THE SHIELD ARRIVES AND BRINGS HIS ELECTRIC EAR INTO PLAY!



I'LL FIND OUT FIRST WHAT THEIR PLANS ARE!

INSIDE THE HOUSE—

THE U.S. FLEET HAS ARRIVED, AND NOW WE STRIKE. THE LUANA VOLCANO WILL BE OUR WEAPON.



THE MOSCONIAN MASTER SPY EXPLAINS!

THE CRATER IS SEMI-ACTIVE. BOMBS WILL SET IT OFF. THE CIVIL AND MILITARY POPULATION WILL BE SO BUSY IT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO COMMIT SABOTAGE.



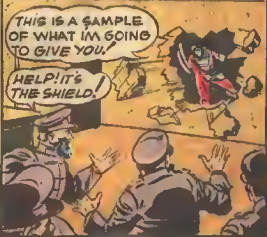
THE SHIELD IS HORRIFIED! WHY THE MURDERING DOGS! THOUSANDS WILL BE KILLED BY THAT VOLCANO!



THE SHIELD GOES INTO ACTION!

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU!

HELP! IT'S THE SHIELD!



THE SHIELD FLINGS MOSCONIANS ABOUT LIKE TEN PINS!

I'M SO MAD I'M NOT EVEN ENJOYING THIS!



AND NOW YOU SEND OUT ORDERS CANCELLING THE BOMBING OF THE CRATER BEFORE I REALLY GET ROUGH!

IT'S TOO LATE! THE BOMBERS ARE ALREADY IN FLIGHT!

THE SHIELD SENDS OUT A MESSAGE TO THE FLEET!
I'VE GOT TO LET THEM KNOW THE SITUATION!

ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP OF THE U.S. NAVY!

WHAT'S THIS! MOSCONIAN SPIES PLANNING TO ERUPT THE LUANA CRATER. WE MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY!

MESSAGE JUST FLASHED THROUGH, SIR!

THE SHIELD IS UNAWARE OF APPROACHING DANGER!

THAT'S THAT, AND NOW FOR THE LUANA CRATER!

SHH! DEGE ELECTIC GUNG VILL GET HIM!

THE SHIELD IS BROUGHT DOWN!

GOOT! NOW JUMP ON HIM UND VE TIB HIM UP!

WHAT THE!

BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY!

YOU MUST HAVE BOUGHT THOSE GUNS AT A BARGAIN COUNTER!

THE MOSCONIAN BOMBERS APPROACH LUANA!

LEAPING FROM
CRAG TO CRAG,
RUNNING FASTER
THAN THE
BOMBERS CAN FLY,
THE SHIELD RACES
TO FRUSTRATE
THE MOSCONIAN
INHUMAN PLAN.

IF I CAN ONLY
GET THERE
IN TIME.

THE SHIELD ARRIVES TOO LATE

THEY'VE DONE IT!

THE US AIR SQUADRON ARRIVES
AND DRIVES OFF THE MOSCONIANS

WELL, ANYWAY
THOSE RATS WILL
GET THEIRS!

INSIDE THE VOLCANO, THE
MOLTEN LAVA BOILS FURIOUSLY.
A MOMENT NOW, AND IT WILL ERUPT,
SENDING LIQUID DEATH SPEWING
DOWN ONTO THOUSANDS OF
UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE.

THE SHIELD
DECIDES HIS COURSE
OF ACTION

IT MIGHT WORK
AT THAT!

IF I CAN DAM UP THIS CRATER
TEMPORARILY, IT'LL GIVE THE
INHABITANTS A CHANCE TO
MOVE OUT OF DANGER.

A RACE AGAINST TIME! THE SHIELD PERFORMS IN A FEW MINUTES LABOR OF YEARS FOR MOTHER NATURE!

THESE ROCKS WILL STOP THE ERUPTION FOR A LITTLE WHILE!



IN A PLANE ABOVE, THE PILOTS LOOK WITH AMAZEMENT AT THE FEATS OF STRENGTH PERFORMED BY THE SHIELD BELOW!

LOOK AT THAT WILL YOU? HOLY MACKEREL HE'S LIFTING MOUNTAINS.



THE SHIELD WEAKENS THE RIM OF THE CRATER AND IT COLLAPSES.



HOLY SMOKE THE WHOLE THING IS CAVING IN!

THE SHIELD HURTTLES TOWARD A FIERY DOOM!



AN OUTJUTTING LEDGE SAVES HIM TEMPORARILY



THE ARMY PLANE, FIGHTING THE SHIELD'S PREDICAMENT, SWINGS DOWN TO A PERILOUS LANDING ON THE RIM OF THE CRATER!



MADE IT!

WHEW! FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT WE'D SURELY BE WRECKED.

CADET KEITH KORNELL, THE WEST-POINTER, ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS — TO THE RESCUE!

QUICK! LOWER ME DOWN THERE WITH A ROPE. YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU'LL BOTH BE KILLED.



THAT LEDGE DOESN'T LOOK TOO STRONG IT'LL ONLY HOLD UP FOR A FEW MINUTES MORE!



BELOW THE SHIELD, THE LAVA BOILS FURIOUSLY!

THE SHIELD REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!



WHAT HAPPENED!

THE SHIELD SHAKES HIMSELF FREE OF THE DEBRIS JUST AS CADET KORNELL REACHES HIM! THANKS FOR TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RISKED IT!



LOOK THAT LEDGE IT'S GIVING WAY!

THE SHIELD LEAPS TO SAFETY!

HANG ON, YOUNG FELLOW FREE RIDE!



WH-WHAT THE!

LATER ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP THE SHIELD RECEIVES THE ADMIRAL'S THANKS

YOUR HEROIC ACTION STALLED THE VOLCANO LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO BRING THE PEOPLE TO SAFETY.



I ONLY DID MY DUTY, SIR!

STILL LATER JOE HIGGINS REPORTS TO HIS CHIEF!

THE MOSCONIAN SPY RING AT PEARL HARBOR IS COMPLETELY CLEARED OUT!

GOOD WORK HIGGINS!



BUT THE DIABOLIC PLOT OF THE MOSCONIANS AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STILL GOES ON IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF—

PEP COMICS

AND THE WIZARD, THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN AND THE WEST POINTER, FIGHT AGAINST THESE SAME INHUMAN SCHEMERS IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF— TOP NOTCH COMICS NOW ON SALE.

The

COMET

by Jack Cole.....

THE COMET, PROTECTOR OF RIGHT, IS JOHN DICKERING, WHO HAS DISCOVERED A GAS THAT WILL MAKE HIM LIGHTER THAN AIR....HE ALSO FINDS THAT HIS EYES GIVE OFF A DISINTEGRATING RAY THAT ONLY GLASS WILL STOP..!

THE COMET HAS RECENTLY BEEN KIDNAPPED AND HYPNOTIZED INTO COMMITTING A SERIES OF CRIMES. REGAINING HIS SENSES HE FINDS HE IS A WANTED MAN AND VOWS TO CLEAR HIS NAME AT ALL COSTS !!

AFTER BEING HUNTED FOR DAYS, THE COMET IS SPOTTED BY THE POLICE.

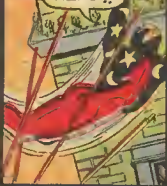
MORE COPS !!
WILL THEY NEVER STOP HOUNDING ME ??



HOT LEAD WHISTLES PAST THE COMET

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE AT THIS RATE.— SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS OPEN SEASON ON MY HEAD !!

THE ONLY THING TO DO IS SURRENDER AND TRUST TO LUCK THAT THEY'LL BELIEVE MY STORY



THE MOST ASTOUNDING
MAN ON THE FACE!
OF THE EARTH!

SO HOPING FOR THE BEST AND PREPARED FOR THE WORST, THE COMET GIVES HIMSELF UP:—

ALRIGHT, YOU CAN HAVE THE CARCASS



THE COMET!! D-DONT M-M-MOVE!

BOY WHAT A CATCH!

THE COMET IS HAND-CUFFED AND LED TO THE CITY JAIL.

ALL I ASK IS A CHANCE TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE!

THAT'S A HOT ONE! HUNDREDS OF EYE-WITNESSES TO HIS KILLINGS AN HE SAYS NOT GUILTY.



NEWS OF THE COMET'S CAPTURE, HIS HEAD, AND A GROUP OF AROUSED CITIZENS STORM THE JAIL.

WE WANT THE COMET! RELEASE HIM TO US OR WE COME IN AFTER HIM! KILLER!!

ONE MINUTE! GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES AND LET THE LAW TAKE ITS COURSE!



SO IT'S LYNCHING THEY WANT, EH?— LOOKS LIKE IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD TO SURRENDER AFTER ALL— ONLY STIRRED UP MORE TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE JUG BEFORE THEY RIP IT TO SHREDS



THE COMET RAISES HIS VISOR AND BREAKS LOOSE IN FULL VIEW OF THE MOB



THERE HE IS!!— SHOOT HIM DOWN!!



PEACEFUL CITIZENS GONE MAD!!— AND I CAN'T FIGHT BACK!!— I THINK THEY'RE DOING RIGHT, BUT I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO SHOW THEM HOW WRONG THEY ARE!!



SUDDENLY A BULLET RIPS THROUGH THE COMET'S SHOULDER!

I'M..... HIT!



DAZED BY THE BULLET THE COMET DASHES FROM THE IRATE MOB.

MUST FIND... SAFETY!—



IN A COMA, HE ROAMS FOR DAYS WITHOUT REST!—LOSS OF BLOOD HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL

CAN'T GO ON.....
REST

FALLS EXHAUSTED HE LIES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT IN A DOWNPOUR

THE NEXT DAY AN AGED MAN STUMBLES UPON HIS MOTIONLESS FORM

MERCIFUL HEAVENS!
A MAN!— MEBBE HE'S DEAD!!

BUT AFTER SOME TIME, THE COMET REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS??

SEVERAL WEEKS OF RELAXATION FINDS THE COMET RECOVERED

THE COMET TELLS HIS STORY TO THE AMAZED OLD MAN.

WH-WHERE DON'T TALK LAD-REST IS AM I ??
WHAT YE'LL BE NEEDIN'??
COME NIGH ON CASHIN' IN YER CHIPS, YE DID!

LAD WHILE YE WERE SICK, I THOUGHT BEST NOT TO TROUBLE YE, BUT THEYS THINGS NEED EXPLAININ'— THAT BULLET WOUND FER INSTANCE—HOW DO I KNOW YOU AINT A CRIMINAL OR SUCH??

MIGHTY FISHY SOUNDIN', BUT THEYS SOMETHIN' ABOUT YE THAT TELLS ME YOU'RE SPEAKIN' THE TRUTH.— SON I BELIEVE YOUR STORY!!

AT LAST SOME ONE BELIEVES ME !!

MR. CRICKET, I'LL BE INDEBTED TO YOU FOR LIFE— ISNT THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO AT LEAST REPAY IN PART THE KINDNESS YOU'VE SHOWN?

SEE THAT SMALL MINING TOWN IN THE VALLEY BELOW?— IT'S "THE VILLAGE OF THE DOOMED"!!

WHY SUCH A HANDLE ??

COME TO THINK OF IT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS STRAIGHTENING OUT AROUND HERE



EVER HEAR OF "SILICOSIS"? COMES FROM BAD VENTILATION IN MINES. — SILICA DUST IS BREATHED IN BY THE MINERS — IT COLLECTS IN THE LUNGS AND CAUSES THE DISEASE! IT EVENTUALLY TURNS TO TUBERCULOSIS. — NEARLY EVERY MAN DOWN THERE IS SUFFERING FROM SILICOSIS!!

WHY DON'T THE MEN PROTEST?



THEY HAVE, BUT THE OWNERS SAY THE EXPENSE OF NEW VENTILATING MACHINES WILL BANKRUPT THEM! THE MEN FEAR THE LOSS OF JOBS MORE THAN LOSING THEIR HEALTH SO THEY CONTINUE TO TOLERATE THE BAD CONDITIONS.

THIS NEEDS LOOKING INTO!!



THE COMET PAYS A VISIT TO THE MINE OFFICE —

GENTLEMEN, I'LL GET TO THE POINT: — WHY HAVEN'T YOU INSTALLED VENTILATORS IN YOUR MINES??

WHO ARE YOU TO COME BUTTING INTO OUR OFFICE?



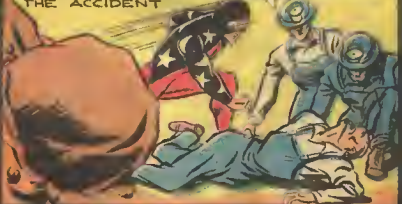
NEVER MIND!! — THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN OF CONDITIONS HERE!!

BOSS!! — CAVE-IN AT MINE NO. 2!!



WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION, THE COMET RACES TO THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT

IT'S GUS WAGNER! — CAUGHT BY THE LEG



RAISING HIS VISOR, THE COMET TRIES TO BLAST AWAY THE ROCK —

NO USE — THE RAY WON'T AFFECT SILICA! WE'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE!



NOTE: — SILICA IS THE MAIN CONSTITUENT OF GLASS

THE COMET FOCUSES HIS RAY ON THE TRAPPED MAN'S LEG

SUCCESS!!



I'D VEH SEE THAT — IT'S A MIRACLE!! — WHO IS HE??

NOW FOR SOME OTHER BUSINESS



THE COMET RETURNS TO THE OFFICE AND FINDS IT EMPTY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE??

JUST BEEN GLANCING OVER YOUR BOOKS, RILEY, AND I FIND THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED A GREAT PROFIT — CONTRARY TO YOUR CLAIMS! YOU CAN WELL AFFORD TO PUT IN NEW VENTILATORS!!



WHY YOU!! — I'LL —

CLAM UP! I'M GIVING YOU THREE WEEKS TO INSTALL THAT EQUIPMENT OR ELSE!!



NOW I KNOW WHO HE IS!! — THE COMET SAAAAY THIS PUTS A NEW LIGHT ON THINGS HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER



WE'LL BE COMING BACK IN THREE WEEKS HERE'S OUR CHANCE TO NAB HIM & T THE REWARD YOU'VE OURSELVES THE EXPENSE OF INSTALL THE VENTILATORS



TRUE TO HIS WORD, THE COMET RETURNS THREE WEEKS LATER

WELL, HAVE YOU DONE YOUR LITTLE JOB??

WE'RE HAPPY TO SAY THAT



YOUR GAME IS UP, MR. COMET! — MOVE! — JUST ONCE! I DARE YOU!!

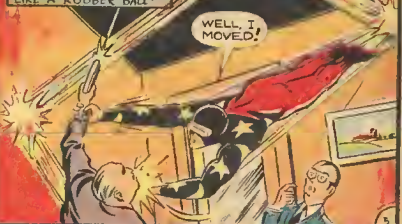


THE PRICE ON YOUR HEAD IS A PRETTY ONE, AND ALL WE WANT IS AN EXCUSE TO CLOSE THAT MOUTH OF YOURS DEAD MEN CAN'T SQUAWK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!!



THE COMET LEAPS INTO ACTION HIS BOUANCY ALLOWS HIM TO BOUNCE AROUND THE OFFICE LIKE A RUBBER BALL!

WELL, I MOVED!



SINCE YOU REFUSE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR WORKERS I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT HOW YOU HAVE PLACED ECONOMY ABOVE HUMAN LIVES !!



THE COMET ENTERS ONE OF THE MINES —

THESE COMPANY LEDGER BOOKS OUGHT TO CONVINCE THEM OF THE TRUTH!



MEANWHILE, THE OWNER, RILEY AND HIS PARTNER RUN TOWARD THE MINE

QUICK! — GRAB ONE OF THESE CHLORINE TANKS !!

WHAT FOR, YOU DON'T MEAN — ?



EXACTLY! — THE HEAVY GAS WILL FLOW DOWN AND FINISH THAT WEASEL!

BUT OUR MEN! — THEY'LL BE KILLED TOO! THAT'S MURDER!



IN SPITE OF HIS PARTNER RILEY RELEASES THE GAS INTO THE SHAFT.

GAS!!



C-C-CAN'T BREATH!



RIGHT AND LEFT THE MINERS FALL GASPING

THE COMET FLASHES HIS RAY REPEATEDLY AT THE CEILING DRILLING HOLES TO THE SURFACE

NEED VENTILATION!



THEN HE BURNS HOLES INTO THE FLOOR PERMITTING THE GAS TO DROP INTO THEM

FRESH AIR !!



LEAVING THE MEN TO RECOVER, THE COMET ZOOMS



SOMEONE IS GOING TO PAY FOR THIS

MR. RILEY, YOU'VE A DEBT TO PAY !!



YOU!! IT CAN'T BE!!

RILEY PICKS UP AN OBJECT FROM THE GROUND



I'M NOT LIKED YET !!

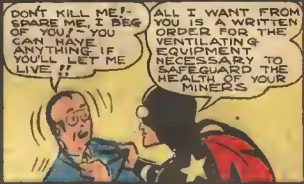
DROP THAT CLUB !!



THE COMET QUICKLY AIMS HIS RAY AT THE "STICK"

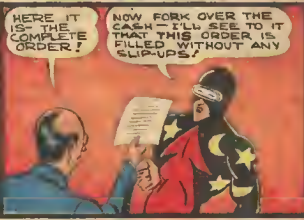
BOOM!

GOOD HEAVENS!! IT'S DYNAMITE!!



DON'T KILL ME! - SPARE ME, I BEG OF YOU! - YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING IF YOU'LL LET ME LIVE !!

ALL I WANT FROM YOU IS A WRITTEN ORDER FOR THE VENTILATING EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF YOUR MINERS



HERE IT IS - THE COMPLETE ORDER!

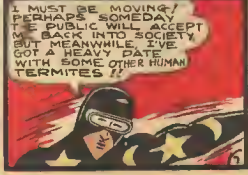
NOW FORK OVER THE CASH - I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THIS ORDER IS FILLED WITHOUT ANY SLIP-UPS!



RETURNING TO THE OLD MINER'S HOME, THE COMET PREPARES TO LEAVE

WE'D BE TICKLED TO HAVE YOU STAY WITH US, SON! - YOU'RE SAFE HERE!

THANKS POPS, BUT -



I MUST BE MOVING! PERHAPS SOMEDAY THE PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT ME BACK INTO SOCIETY, BUT MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT A HEAVY DATE WITH SOME OTHER HUMAN TERMITES !!

ANOTHER COMET ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS

THE PRESS GUARDIAN

EVEN THE PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY EXPRESS DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS EFFETE SON, PERRY CHASE, SECRETLY IS THE DAUNTLESS PRESS GUARDIAN, FOE OF ALL ENEMIES OF THE PRESS

TO THE DAILY EXPRESS—THIS IS A WARNING! YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF DOG-BOY MEN SHOWING THAT CERTAIN MEN HAVE BEEN STEALING A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FROM THE STATE. WE ADMIT WE TOOK THE DOUGH BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR NOSEY CAPITOL CORRESPONDENT AND WE'RE READY TO TAKE CARE OF THE DAILY EXPRESS IF YOU PUBLISH ONE LINE OF THE STORY!

SEND ME TO THE CAPITOL, DAD. I'D LIKE TO UNCOVER THE ONE MAN OUR DOCUMENTS DIDN'T NAME—THE TOP MAN.

IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. PERRY IS SO SIMPLE THE CROOKS WOULD IGNORE HIM!

IT'S AGAINST MY JUDGEMENT, BUT GO AHEAD!



A NEW TASK FOR THE PRESS GUARDIAN!

ABOARD THE MULLMAN CAPITOL BOUND

WE KNOW THE DAILY EXPRESS SENT YOU—MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AT THE CAPITOL, OR ELSE.....



OR ELSE WHAT?

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME WISE GUY UNLESS YOU WANNA GET HURT!

YOU MEAN I MIGHT GET HURT, LIKE THIS?

PERRY ENTERS HIS NEW OFFICE AT THE CAPITOL—
CYNTHIA BLAKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THIS IS A DANGEROUS JOB I'M ON!

I'M TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT. YOUR FATHER GAVE ME THE JOB!

HERE'S A NEW PRESS RELEASE, SIR!



PERRY'S NEW ASSISTANT IS THE GIRL HE RESCUED FROM THE MORONIABUND—THE ONLY LIVING PERSON BESIDE PERRY'S VALET WHO KNOWS THAT PERRY IS THE PRESS GUARDIAN

THE EXPRESS AIN'T LAID OFF LIKE YOU TOLD 'EM TO.—THEY GOT A NEW MAN HERE!



PIES WATCH PERRY VERY MINUTE. CAN BE OUTWIT THEM?

PERRY AND CYNTHIA HAVE BEEN INVITED TO A PARTY AT A POLITICIAN'S COUNTRY HOME—PERRY CALLS TO DISCOVER THE BEST WAY TO GET THERE!

I ASSURE YOU MR. CHASE, THE RIVER ROAD IS THE BEST ROUTE YOU CAN TAKE!

OKAY, AND THANK YOU!

IT SOUNDS PHONEY TO ME!

I'LL BE DELAYED TO-NIGHT. YOU GO TO THE WALTON PARTY BY CAB. I'LL MEET YOU THERE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

I DON'T BELIEVE A BIG SHOT POLITICIAN WOULD HAVE HIS HOME ON A LONELY ROAD LIKE THIS! I WONDER WHAT'S UP?

PERRY DRIVES TO THE WALTON PARTY!

AH! SO THAT'S THEIR GAME!

A BLAZING BARRIER BLOCKS THE ROAD!

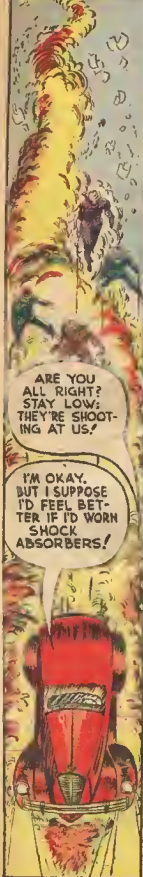
SUDDENLY, CYNTHIA BLAKE SPRINGS UP FROM UNDER A BLANKET IN THE BACK OF THE CAR!

GOSH! THAT LOOKS DANGEROUS.

FIX THE DOORS SO THEY'LL OPEN! WE'LL ROLL OUT IF THAT BARRIER IS SOLID. IF IT'S FLIMSY WE'LL GO RIGHT ON THROUGH IT!

CYNTHIA, I TOLD YOU TO TAKE A CAB!

PERRY CRASHES THE BARRIER! WILL HE AND CYNTHIA COME OUT ALIVE?



THIS CONVINCES ME THAT OUR HOST IS TOP MAN IN THE GRAFT RING!

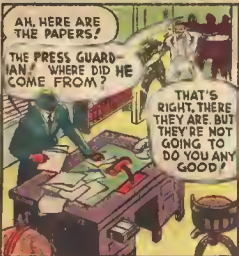


AT THE PARTY...

THOSE TWO WILL HAVE TO BE WATCHED!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIS OFFICE A THOROUGH GOING OVER!

PERRY'S SENSITIVE EARS CATCH THE ORDER WHISPERED TO THE BUTLER!



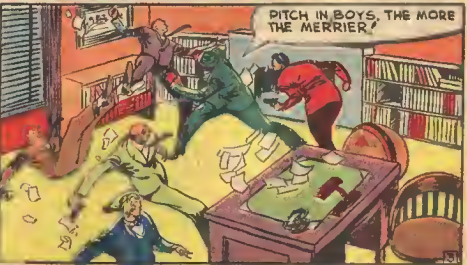
AH, HERE ARE THE PAPERS!

THE PRESS GUARDIAN! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

THAT'S RIGHT, THERE THEY ARE. BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO DO YOU ANY GOOD!



GO GET HIM, BOYS, AND PUT HIM AWAY WITH THE OTHER SNOOPER!



PITCH IN BOYS, THE MORE THE MERRIER!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? STAY LOW; THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!

I'M OKAY, BUT I SUPPOSE I'D FEEL BETTER IF I WORN SHOCK ABSORBERS!

THE HOST FLINGS A CHAIR,
BUT THE PRESS GUARDIAN
SEES IT COMING, AND DUCKS,
JUST IN TIME!

THANKS FOR
SAVING ME THE
TROUBLE!



I'LL GET YOU! YOU SPY-
ING DOG! I'LL FIND OUT
ONCE AND FOR ALL WHO
IS THE PRESS GUARDIAN!



THIS WILL
TAKE CARE
OF YOU!



AND THIS
WILL FINISH
YOU!

NOT YET
MY FINE
FEATHERED
FRIEND!



NOT WHILE
I STILL HAVE
ONE OR TWO OF
THESE AROUND!



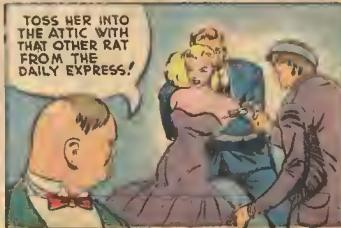
THERE IS A
TELEPHONE CALL
FOR YOU MISS
THIS WAY
PLEASE

MEANWHILE...
DOWNSTAIRS...

THAT'S ODD—
NO ONE BUT
PERRY KNOWS
THAT I'M
HERE!



HELLO....
HELLO.....
HELLO.....
THERE'S NO
ONE ON
THIS.....



TOSS HER INTO
THE ATTIC WITH
THAT OTHER RAT
FROM THE
DAILY EXPRESS!

THE BATTLE
STILL RAGES
IN THE
HOST'S
DEN.....



OTHERS HAVE TRIED
TO SHOOT THE PRESS
GUARDIAN BEFORE.....
WITH NO BETTER LUCK!



THE PRESS GUARDIAN
FACES A NEW
BATTLE!



I'LL MEET LESS INTERFERENCE BY GOING UP THIS WAY!

THE PRESS GUARDIAN TAKES A DANGEROUS ROUTE!



HELP!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT RAT!



YOU CAME UP HERE ASKIH' FOR IT, BUDDY. AND YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!

CAN THE PRESS GUARDIAN BEAT THE THUG'S TRIGGER FINGER?



YOU'LL HAVE TO BE FASTER THAN THAT RAT!



THE PRESS GUARDIAN OVERWHELMS HIS FOE!



YOUR KIDNAPPED REPORTER IS TIED UP IN THE NEXT ROOM!

FINE. UNTIE HIM, AND TELL HIM HE'LL FIND A BIG STORY DOWNSTAIRS

WHERE OUR HOST HAS JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE. I SAW HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW AS I WAS COMING UP!



THE LEADER OF THE GRAFT RING KILLED HIMSELF, RATHER THAN FACE THE DISGRACE OF ARREST!

RUSH THOSE PAPERS TO THE OFFICE. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE LEARNS THAT PERRY CHASE, WHO THEY THINK IS DEAD DRUNK UNDER A TABLE, IS REALLY — THE PRESS GUARDIAN!



ONCE MORE THE PRESS GUARDIAN HAS OUTWITTED ENEMIES OF THE PRESS. FOLLOW HIS NEW ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF —

PEP COMICS



GIANTS OF THE WEST

PHOTOGRAPHS of the big trees of California showing a cowboy on horseback beside one of the giants of the forest are popular with tourists. The cowboy, in comparison to the tree, looks like an ant might beside a telegraph pole.

Most of the tourists are not aware that the big trees of California are of a species found, in nature, no place else on earth. Also that they are the oldest living things on earth.

The trees of the Sequoia family are cone bearing, but are not true pines. While pine trees are widely distributed about the earth, the Sequoia is found only in the one location, a fact for which no botanist has ever been able to account unless it is because of the peculiarly even temperature to be found in the valleys of the Golden Gate state.

There are two species of the Sequoia, both native to California. One is known as the big or giant tree and the other is the redwood. Where attempts have been made to cultivate these trees in European or other botanical gardens, the few specimens to live any length of time have shown a dwarf or stunted growth.

The giant trees of California were old when the pyramids were being built. They were giants when Columbus discovered America and when Nero fiddled in Rome. The largest specimens are estimated to be over 7000 years old.

These trees are protected, but one of a smaller size was cut down for experimental and research purposes and its annual rings numbered 2125. An idea of the size of the tree can be gained by the fact that twenty men with arms outstretched can just encircle the tree known as General Sherman. If one of the men happens to have short arms the twenty will miss circling the tree by about six inches.

GENERAL SHERMAN while among the largest at the base is not among the tallest of the trees. The Keystone State, slightly smaller at the base than the General Sherman, is 325 feet high and some just top the 400-foot mark.

In the hollow of one of the trees six ponies and mules have been stabled. A dancing pavilion has been made by polishing the stump of one gigantic specimen. A church in Santa Rosa, California has been built entirely from the wood of one tree, with a considerable bulk of scraps and kindling left over.

The wood of both types of Sequoia is light and durable and takes on a beautiful satiny finish. In the early days it was extensively used for interior decoration and the trees from which it came are the most valuable in the world.

Snuff boxes made by early Spanish settlers from this wood are still in existence and are fabulously valued.

GREAT NEW FEATURE
GALAHAD!
 STARTING IN MAY NO. 5
TOP-NOTCH
COMICS

6 TRIANGLES

BIG DIAMOND

5 AIRMAILS!

Also **BIG PACKET** of
SCARCE STAMPS include
 the U. S. rare **BORNEO**
SILVER JUBILEE, BELG
CONGO, DUTCH INDIES,
SIAM P. I. CUBA
CHINA, BRAZIL, many
 other countries, **BRIT**
COLONIES, CHILE, and MEXICO. See to
 approval applicants

EUREKA STAMP CO., Box 630L, Burbank, Calif

FU CHANG

International

DETECTIVE



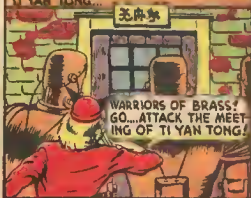
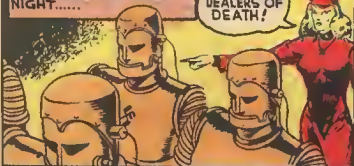
FU CHANG, INTERNATIONAL DETECTIVE, WHO RESIDES IN CHINATOWN, ACHIEVES WITH THE AID OF THE MAGIC CHESSMEN OF ALADDIN, PROSPERITY AND PROTECTION FOR HIS PEOPLE. HE HAS ORGANIZED THE TI YAN TONG AS A SECRET SOCIETY TO DO GOOD, AND RIGHT WRONG, NATURALLY. THIS TONG IS HATED AND FEARED BY EVILDOERS-AND ONE NIGHT.....

Tom Stricker



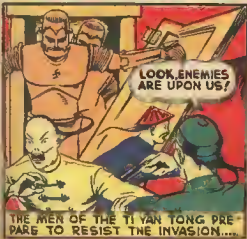
FORWARD, DEALERS OF DEATH!

PRINCESS LING FOY LEADS HER BRAZEN WARRIORS TO THE MEETING OF THE TI YAN TONG...



WARRIORS OF BRASS! GO...ATTACK THE MEETING OF TI YAN TONG!

PRINCESS LING FOY, THE BEAUTIFUL SORCESSER, HAS BROUGHT TO LIFE A STRANGE HORDE OF EVIL CREATURES!



LOOK, ENEMIES ARE UPON US!

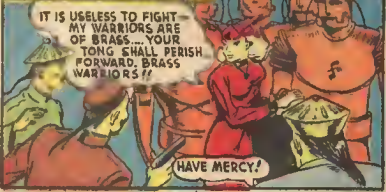


THESE MEN ARE INVULNERABLE....MY SWORD BREAKS!

MY BULLETS CANNOT PIERCE THEM!

THE MEN OF THE TI YAN TONG PREPARE TO RESIST THE INVASION....

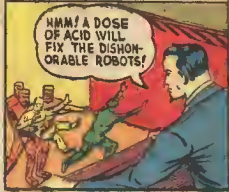
BUT THE COURAGEOUS EFFORTS OF THE TONG ARE OF NO AVAIL



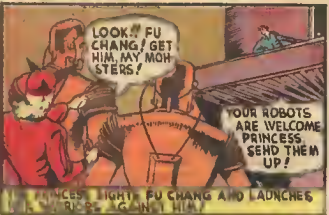
IT IS USELESS TO FIGHT—MY WARRIORS ARE OF BRASS... YOUR TONG SHALL PERISH FORWARD. BRASS WARRIORS!!

HAVE MERCY!

BUT FU CHANG GRASPS THE SITUATION AND PLANS AN ATTACK.....



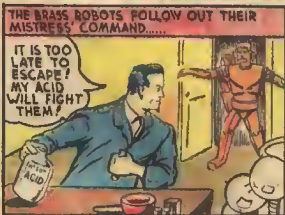
HMM! A DOSE OF ACID WILL FIX THE DISHONORABLE ROBOTS!



LOOK!! FU CHANG! GET HIM, MY MOTHERS!

YOUR ROBOTS ARE WELCOME PRINCESS SEND THEM UP!

THE LADY LIGHTS FU CHANG AND LAUNCHES HER ARROW AT HIM



THE BRASS ROBOTS FOLLOW OUT THEIR MISTRESS' COMMAND.....

IT IS TOO LATE TO ESCAPE! MY ACID WILL FIGHT THEM!



THIS WILL DESTROY THE MONSTERS OF EVIL!

FU CHANG ATTACKS THE BRASS MEN WITH HIS OWN WEAPON



ONE BY ONE THE BRASS FIGURES DISSOLVE INTO NOTHINGNESS!

THIS WILL FINISH THE REST OF YOU!



VICTORY IS FU CHANG'S

THE LAST OF MY BRAZEN WARRIORS! NOTHING BUT MOLTEN METAL!

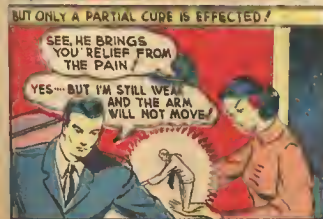
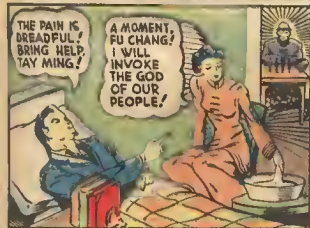
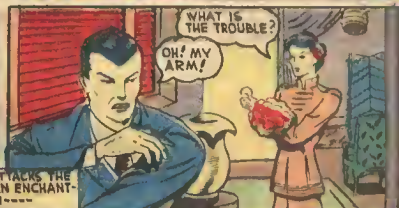
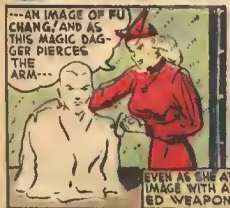
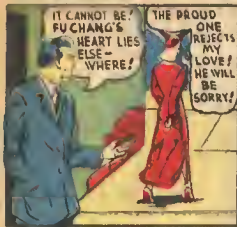


I AM DEFEATED... KILL ME!



NO, FU CHANG DOES NOT KILL WOMEN! GO AND USE YOUR POWER FOR GOOD!

I WAS WRONG TO FIGHT YOU! YOU ARE STRONG, I AM BEAUTIFUL—TOGETHER WE CAN RULE CHINATOWN!





THROUGH A SCREEN OF SMOKE, APPEARS A WEIRD FIGURE.....



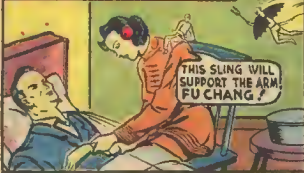
AN LITTLE IMP OF THE SMOKE FLY DESTROY TAY MING!

I HEAR AND OBEY!

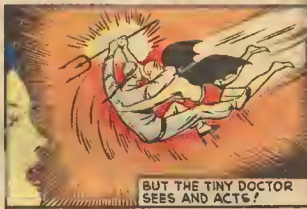


SWIFTLY, THE TINY THING OF EVIL WINGS ITS WAY!

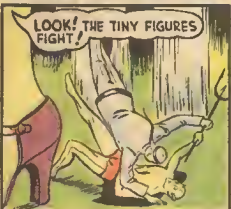
NEITHER TAY MING NOR FU CHANG SEE THE IMP FLY IN!



THIS SLING WILL SUPPORT THE ARM, FU CHANG!



BUT THE TINY DOCTOR SEES AND ACTS!

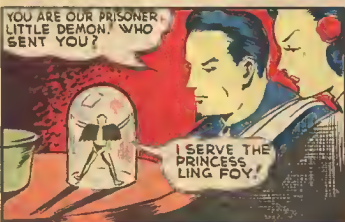


LOOK! THE TINY FIGURES FIGHT!



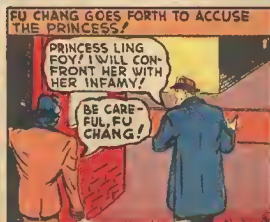
QUICKLY THE CHESSMAN DOCTOR SUBDUES THE IMP!

DRIVE THE ENEMY IN HERE, LITTLE FRIEND!



YOU ARE OUR PRISONER, LITTLE DEMON, WHO SENT YOU?

I SERVE THE PRINCESS LING FOY!



FU CHANG GOES FORTH TO ACCUSE THE PRINCESS!

PRINCESS LING FOY! I WILL CONFRONT HER WITH HER INFAMY!

BE CAREFUL, FU CHANG!

AGAIN TAY MING PRAYS TO THE IDOL!



HELP ME AGAIN, HOLY ONE! I KNOW NOT WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.

GO!! AID FU CHANG!!



TAY MING STARTS OUT FOR LING FOY'S APARTMENT!



I KNOW NOT HOW A MERMAID CAN HELP, BUT THE GOD FORE SEES THE FUTURE BETTER THAN I.... I WILL FOLLOW FU CHANG!

PRINCESS LING FOY, I SPARED YOU ONCE---- WHY DO YOU RETURN EVIL FOR GOOD?



MY LIKENESS IN WAX---ITS ARM PIERCED, THAT IS HOW YOU INJURED ME!

YES--- NOW I WILL MAKE YOU MORE HELP-LESS STILL!

BY DOING THIS!



THE WITCH-PRINCESS DRIVES IN ANOTHER ENCHANTED DAGGER!

MY STOMACH! STOP!! I CAN'T STAND THE PAIN!



THAT IS BUT A SMALL SAMPLE, FU CHANG! DO AS I SAY, AND I WILL STOP THE PAIN!

WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?



THIS THIRD DAGGER WILL PIERCE THE FIGURE'S HEART---AND YOURS! CONFESS DEFEAT...OR DIE!



I WILL DO NEITHER!

BUT, BEFORE THE PRINCESS CAN CARRY OUT HER EVIL PLAN.....

WAIT! PRINCESS LING FOY, YOUR EVIL IS AT AN END!



THIS BULLET WILL FOREVER END YOUR TORTURE OF CHINA-TOWN'S BELOVED FU CHANG!



THE PRINCESS FALLS AGAINST THE IMAGE OF FU CHANG AND KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE WINDOW INTO THE WATER OF THE BAY!

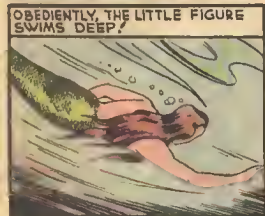
YOU SAVED MY LIFE--- BUT THAT IMAGE IS LOST! I WILL LIVE FOREVER IN PAIN!



SWIM AFTER THE IMAGE, FISH-MAIDEN / DRAW OUT THE ENCHANTED DAGGER!

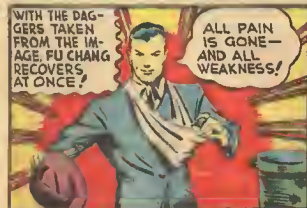


OBEDIENTLY, THE LITTLE FIGURE SWIMS DEEP!



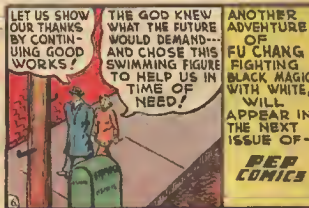
SHE REACHES THE IMAGE AND REMOVES THE MAGIC WEAPONS!

WITH THE DAGGERS TAKEN FROM THE IMAGE, FU CHANG RECOVERS AT ONCE!



ALL PAIN IS GONE— AND ALL WEAKNESS!

LET US SHOW OUR THANKS BY CONTINUING GOOD WORKS!



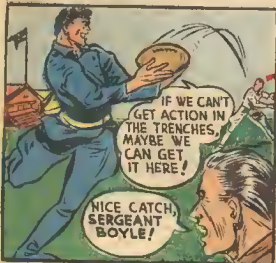
THE GOD KNEW WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD DEMAND--- AND CHOSE THIS SWIMMING FIGURE TO HELP US IN TIME OF NEED!

ANOTHER ADVENTURE OF FU CHANG FIGHTING BLACK MAGIC WITH WHITE, WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF—

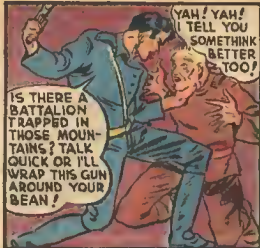
PEP COMICS

SERGEANT BOYLE

SERGEANT BOYLE, AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENT, JOINED THE BRITISH ARMY TO FIND EXCITEMENT — AND HE FINDS PLENTY!









THIS'LL KEEP YOU TWO FROM GOING ON ANY BOMBING RAIDS!

SERGEANT BOYLE SKIS INTO THE TEETH OF THE ENEMY FIRE!



SHTOP HEEM!

IF I HAD A MACHINE GUN I COULD HOLD THEM OFF!

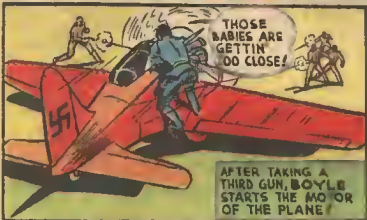


WHAT A BREAK! THIS TOMMY IS DE TACHABLE!



ANOTHER ONE OF THESE THINGS AND I'LL TAKE ON THEIR WHOLE ARMY!

FROM A SECOND PLANE HE TAKES ANOTHER GUN!



THOSE BABIES ARE GETTIN' TOO CLOSE!

AFTER TAKING A THIRD GUN, BOYLE STARTS THE MOTOR OF THE PLANE!



SIC 'EM PLANE!

ACH RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!



I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT THEY'RE ASKING FOR IT!

HERE THEY COME!

WELL FORTIFIED WITH GUNS, BOYLE SETS HIMSELF FOR A COUNTER ATTACK!



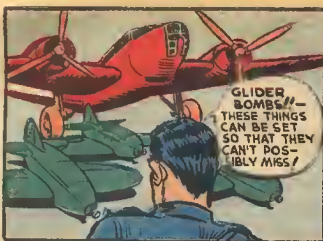
ACH!

BAT BAT TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP



THAT WAS FOR THE BOYS IN BATTALION A!

FIGHTING LIKE A FURY, BOYLE WIPES OUT THE AIR FIELD'S ENTIRE STAFF!



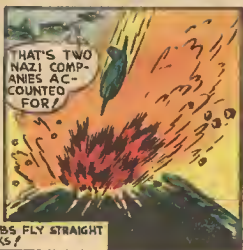
HE TIES THE BOMBS
TO THE TAIL OF A
GIANT PLANE!

AND THEY WERE
GOING TO DROP
THESE THINGS ON
INNOCENT WOMEN
AND CHILDREN—
WHAT RATS!

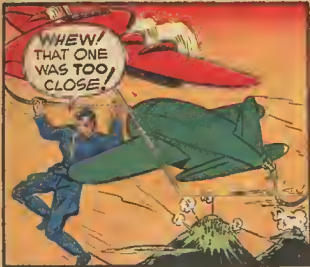


TO HIS SURPRISE, BOYLE SEES BATTALION A
TRAPPED IN A VALLEY, WHILE THREE NAZI
COMPANIES HAMMER AWAY AT THEM!

AFTER SETTING THE AUTOMATIC PILOT,
BOYLE CLIMBS OUT ALONG THE ROPE TO
THE LAST OF THE GLIDER BOMBS!



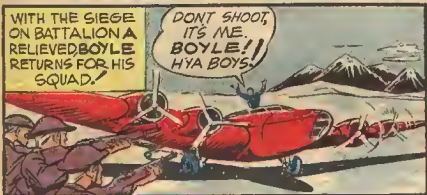
THE GLIDER BOMBS FLY STRAIGHT
TO THEIR MARKS!



WHEW!
THAT ONE
WAS TOO
CLOSE!



TOO BAD—
MISSED HALF
OF THEM WITH
THAT LAST
BOMB!

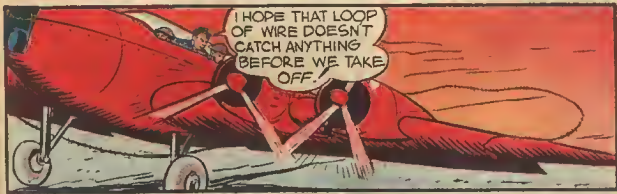


WITH THE SIEGE
ON BATTALION A
RETURNS FOR HIS
SQUAD!

DON'T SHOOT,
IT'S ME,
BOYLE!!
HYA BOYS.



SO YOU SEE, THE JOB
IS NOT FINISHED—NOW
I WANT BARBED WIRE
AND LOTS OF IT.
HURRY.

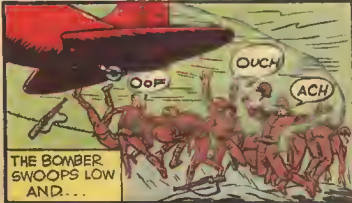


I HOPE THAT LOOP
OF WIRE DOESN'T
CATCH ANYTHING
BEFORE WE TAKE
OFF.



IT'S
THAT SPY
SHIP
AGAIN!

RAPID
FIRE!

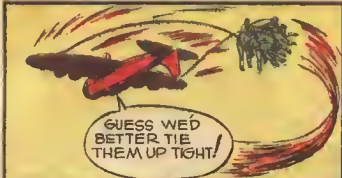


OOF

OUCH

ACH

THE BOMBER
SWOOPS LOW
AND...



GUESS WE'D BETTER TIE THEM UP TIGHT!

A COUPLE OF BARREL ROLLS SECURED BY KNOTS THE WIRE AROUND THE NAZIS!



I HOPE WE DONT LOSE ANY OF OUR CARGO, AT LEAST NOT YET!



DIS SAUERBRATEN ISS VERY GOOT!

BACK OF THE ENEMY LINES GENERAL VON SCHMUTZ IS AT HIS DINNER!



OKAY! NOW CUT THE WIRE!



SLUP! SLUP! SLUP! GIFF ME MORE!



CRASH

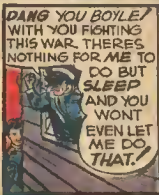


NOW MAYBE WE CAN FINISH OUR GAME IN PEACE



AFTER REPORTING TO THE GENERAL!

YUH DID IT NOW BOYLE! RUN.



DANG YOU BOYLE! WITH YOU FIGHTING THIS WAR, THERES NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT SLEEP AND YOU WONT EVEN LET ME DO THAT!

ANOTHER RIOTOUS RIP ROARING ACTION PACKED SERGEANT BOYLE STORY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

PEP COMICS



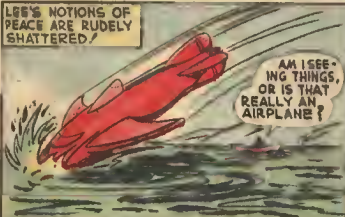
The MIDSHIPMAN

LEE SAMPSON, A MIDSHIPMAN AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
TYPIFIES THE AMERICAN IDEAL OF PATRIOTISM AND INTEL-
LIGENCE. HE SERVES HIS COUNTRY, AND IS EVER READY TO
LAY DOWN HIS LIFE IN ITS SERVICE!

LEE SAMPSON, THE MIDSHIPMAN, HAS
RECEIVED PERMISSION TO USE ONE OF
THE NAVY BOATS FOR THE AFTERNOON!



LEE'S NOTIONS OF
PEACE ARE RUDELY
SHATTERED!



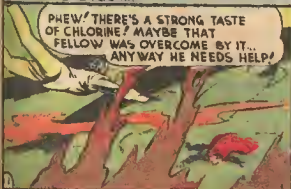
AS LEE APPROACHES THE SCENE, HE SEES ANOTHER QUEER THING!

SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON,
WHAT'S THAT BOAT LOWERING
INTO THE WATER? I'D
BETTER INVESTIGATE!



A REMARKABLE SIGHT GREETES THE MID-
SHIPMAN'S EYES....

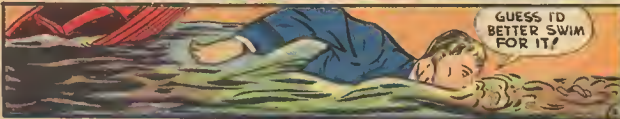
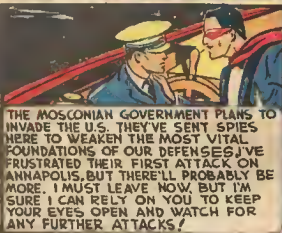
PHEW! THERE'S A STRONG TASTE
OF CHLORINE! MAYBE THAT
FELLOW WAS OVERCOME BY IT...
ANYWAY HE NEEDS HELP!



BUT THE UNKNOWN VICTIM REVIVES IMMEDI-
ATELY AND SWIMS TOWARD THE MIDSHIPMAN!

GUESS HE'S OKAY!
ANYWAY, I'LL LEAD
HIM TO MY BOAT!







KEEP FIRING. WE
MUST MAKE SURE!

THE MOSCONIANS
OPEN FIRE!

THE MIDSHIPMAN SINKS!



H...HELP!

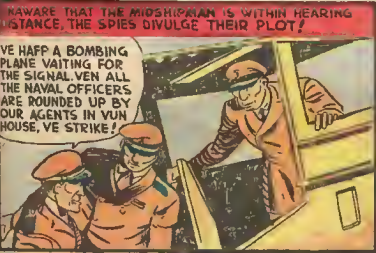
BUT LEE IS FAR FROM
FINISHED!




I HOPE THEY
FELL FOR
IT!

THEY WON'T THINK OF LOOKING
FOR ME ON THE PROW
OF THEIR OWN
BOAT. I'LL JUST
HOLD ON FOR
AWHILE!

UNWARE THAT THE MIDSHIPMAN IS WITHIN HEARING
DISTANCE, THE SPIES DIVULGE THEIR PLOT!



WE HAV A BOMBING
PLANE WAITING FOR
THE SIGNAL. VEN ALL
THE NAVAL OFFICERS
ARE ROUNDED UP BY
OUR AGENTS IN YUN
HOUSE, WE STRIKE!



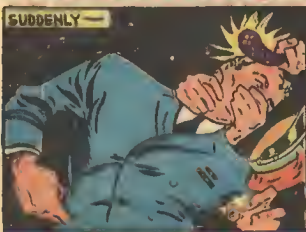
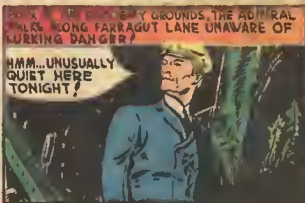
GREAT GHOSTS! THEY'RE
PLANNING TO KILL OFF
THE ENTIRE NAVAL
STAFF!

LEE SAMPSON
SPRINGS A SURPRISE!



IT...IT ISS A
GHOST.

HERES ONE GHOST
WITH A GOOD LEFT
HOOK.!



MIDSHIPMAN SAMPSON MAKES A
BEELINE FOR THE ADMIRAL'S HOUSE.



H... HE'S
GONE!

THE ADMIRAL IS FORCED TO CARRY OUT THE
PLOTTERS' ORDERS!



YOU WILL CALL UP
EACH OF YOUR NAVAL
STAFF AND ASK THEM
TO COME HERE
IMMEDIATELY!

YOU'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO CARRY
OUT YOUR
PLAN!

LIEUTENANT GREEVES
RECEIVES A STRANGE
ORDER!



YES, ADMIRAL. I'LL
BE THERE RIGHT
AWAY!

THE ADMIRAL THEN CALLS
THE HOME OF THE REAR
ADMIRAL. HE'S OUT BUT BY
A STRANGE COINCIDENCE,
LEE SAMPSON, SEEKING
SOMEONE TO REPORT
HIS STORY TO, IS THERE
AT THE MOMENT THE
PHONE RINGS - THE
ADMIRAL IS FORCED
TO ORDER LEE TO
REPORT ALSO - LEE
OBEYS - HE RUSHES
TO THE OFFICE OF
THE ADMIRAL,
WHERE.....

...HE FALLS INTO THE MOSCONIAN TRAP!



THE MOSCONIANS ARE
ABOUT TO KILL THE AP-
ARENTLY UNCONSCIOUS
MIDSHIPMAN!



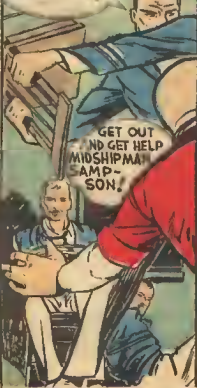
WE TAKE NO
CHANCES VID DIS
VUN. HE ISS TOO
MUCH TROUBLE!

BUT THE MIDSHIPMAN
SUDDENLY COMES TO
LIFE!



LUCKY THING
FOR ME THAT
MY HEAD IS
HARD!

COMB THIS
ONE OUT OF
YOUR HAIR!



GET OUT
AND GET HELP
MIDSHIPMAN
SAMP-
SON!

REALIZING THAT THE HALLS AND THE DOWNSTAIRS OF THE BUILDING ARE GUARDED, LEE DASHES OUT OF A WINDOW, AND CLIMBS HASTILY TO THE ROOF!



GOSH! LOOKS LIKE I STUMBLED ACROSS SOME— THING IM-PORTANT!

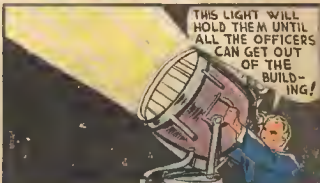
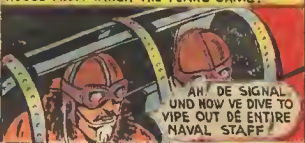


BUT MIDSHIPMAN SAMPSON IS TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE MOSCOHIAN FROM SENDING THE SIGNAL!

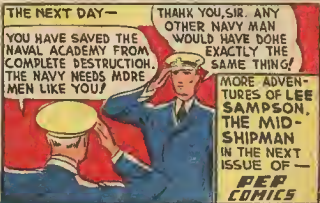
LEE HAS A PLAN, BUT IT REQUIRES A DESPERATE CHANCE!



THE MOSCOHIAN BOMBER HEADS FOR THE HOUSE FROM WHICH THE FLARE CAME!



LEE'S STRATEGY IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN EVEN HE HAD ANTICIPATED BEFORE THE BLINDED PILOT CAN LEVEL OFF. HE CRASHES INTO A RADIO TOWER!



BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!

JUNE ISSUE
NO. 4
ON SALE
APRIL 10TH



WATCH FOR
THE
RANG-A-TANG
CLUB
AND THE
RANG-A-TANG
HONOR LEGION!
CONTEST
WINNERS
ANNOUNCED!

RANG-A-TANG,
THE WONDER
DOG BRINGS TO
THE PAGES OF
BLUE RIBBON
COMICS, THE
COURAGE AND DARING, THAT
MADE RIN-TIN-TIN THE MOVIES
MOST FAMOUS CHARACTER----
RANG'S SUPERIOR INTELLI-
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TODAYS FORCES OF EVIL -

CORPORAL COLLINS - INFRANTRYMAN!
TY GOR - SON OF THE TIGER!
GYPSY JOHNSON - ADVENTURER!
LOOP LOGAN - AIR ACE!
DOC STRONG - AND THE ISLE OF RIGHT!
THE FOX - DETECTIVE!
THE GREEN FALCON - KNIGHT AND CRUSADER!

DON'T FAIL TO GET YOUR COPY OF THE JUNE ISSUE NO. 4 BLUE RIBBON COMICS! ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS ABOUT APRIL 10TH

THE ROCKET

AND THE

QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

ONE DAY A HUGE ROCKET SHIP CRASHED WITHIN THE BARRIERS OF THE DIAMOND EMPIRE... AFTER DEFEATING PLOTTERS AGAINST THE CROWN, THE PILOT, KNOWN AS THE ROCKET, BECOMES THE FRIEND OF THE EMPIRE'S LOVELY QUEEN... IN THE LAST EPISODE WE LEFT THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN FLYING IN A DISABLED

Jim Shester

CITY OF THE HAWKMEN

AND DESOLATE LAND...

FLYING LOW OVER THE WASTELAND THEY SIGHT A ONE-SIDED BATTLE!

LOOK! ALL OF THEM ARE FIGHTING AGAINST ONE MAN!

IT'S THE LIZARDMEN, AND THE MAN THEY'RE FIGHTING IS A HAWKMAN! QUICK ROCKET--WE MUST GO TO THE RESCUE!

WITH FLARES BLASTING THE ROCKET DIVES AT THE LIZARDMEN WHO FLEE IN PANIC!

BUT THE DIVE WAS TOO STEEP FOR THE DISABLED SHIP--THEY CRASH TO A LANDING!

CRASH

WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE ROCKET HURRIES TO THE AID OF THE LONE SURVIVOR!

GOSH... HE'S A MIGHTY FIGHTER... LOOK AT ALL THOSE DEAD SOLDIERS AROUND HIM!

THANK YOU WARRIOR. I'M PRINCE FALKAR OF THE KINGDOM OF HAWKMEN!

I AM KNOWN AS THE ROCKET I SERVE THE QUEEN OF THE EMPIRE OF DIAMONDS!

RETURNING TO THE SHIP, THEY EXAMINE THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CRASH.

WE'LL NEED TOOLS AND MEN TO FIX THIS LANDING GEAR.

COME WITH ME TO MY COUNTRY - I WILL SEND BACK ALL THE AID YOU NEED

THEY SET OUT FOR THE LAND OF THE HAWKMEN.

ONE OF THE DEFEATED LIZARD MEN WATCHES THEM GO.

JUST TWO MEN AND A WOMAN. WE WILL LET THEM ENTER THE DARK FOREST AND SURPRISE THEM THERE

PRINCE FALKAR LEADS THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN THROUGH A WEIRD FOREST IN THE DIRECTION OF HIS KINGDOM!

SILENT AS THE NIGHT, THE LIZARD MEN SNEAK UP BEHIND THE UNSUSPECTING TRIO...

SPEED THIS ARROW TRUE, GREAT GOD OF THE LIZARDS!

MY WINGS!!

THE LIZARD-MEN ARE UPON US! TAKE COVER QUICK!!

A BARRAGE
OF ARROWS
FLY PAST!

WE'LL BE
SAFE BEHIND
THESE ROCKS

THEY WON'T DARE
COME ANY CLOSER,
FOR THEY ARE
COWARDLY FIGHTERS!

IF WE WAIT
UNTIL NIGHT
FALL, WE'LL
BE ABLE TO
SLIP THROUGH
THEM IN THE
DARKNESS

TOO BAD THAT
ARROW INJURED
MY WINGS, I'D
BE ABLE TO
FLY FOR AID.

BUT THE LIZARD-MEN
HAVE NO INTENTIONS
OF WAITING FOR
DARKNESS!

FIRE WILL DRIVE
THEM INTO THE
OPEN

GOOD, THEN
OUR ARCHERS
CAN PICK THEM
OFF

RUN, AND STAY LOW!
THEY CAN'T SEE US
BECAUSE OF THE
SMOKE SCREEN THEY
CREATED

THE ROCKET AND HIS FRIENDS FLEE
FROM THE PATH OF THE FLAMING INFERNO

BUT THE ROCKET NOTICES THAT THE
ANIMALS ARE RUNNING IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.

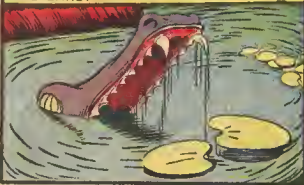
WE'RE TRAPPED,
THERE'S FIRE
AHEAD.

THE ANIMALS
KNOW OF
WATER! FOLLOW
THEM AND
WE'LL BE
SAFE!

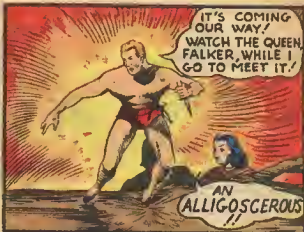
RACING MADLY IN THE PATH OF THE
ANIMALS THEY COME TO THE SHORES
OF A GIANT LAKE...

UNLESS THE
LIZARD MEN
DISCOVER US
WE'LL BE SAFE
UNTIL THE FIRE
DIES DOWN!

A HUGE FLESH-EATING MONSTER HAD ALSO SOUGHT THE SAFETY OF THE LAKE!

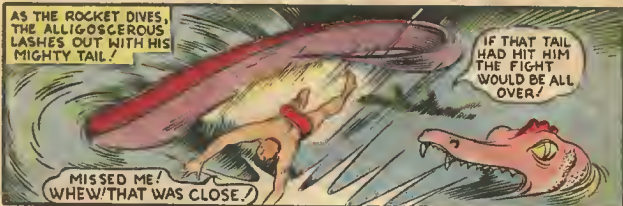


IT'S COMING OUR WAY!
WATCH THE QUEEN FALKER, WHILE I GO TO MEET IT!



AN ALLIGOSCEROUS!!

AS THE ROCKET DIVES, THE ALLIGOSCEROUS LASHES OUT WITH HIS MIGHTY TAIL!



IF THAT TAIL HAD HIT HIM THE FIGHT WOULD BE ALL OVER!

MISSED ME!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

THE ROCKET TRIES TO LURE THE BEAST AWAY FROM HIS FRIENDS BY SWIMMING UNDER WATER.



LUSTING FOR THE KILL THE ALLIGOSCEROUS FOLLOWS!!

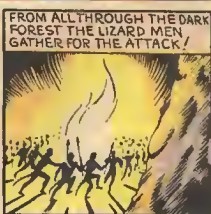
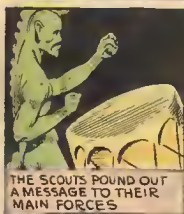
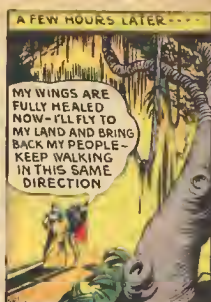


ACTING WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE ROCKET THRUSTS HIS DAGGER AGAIN AND AGAIN INTO THE BEAST'S EYES

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES, SIR ROCKET!
WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL



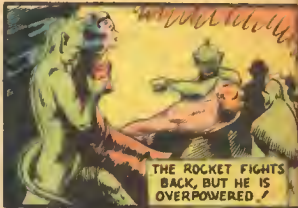
BLINDED, THE ALLIGOSCEROUS THRESHES AWAY TO ITS DOOM!



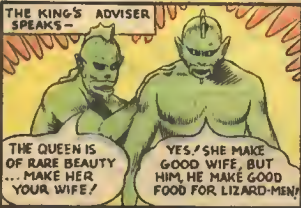
WITH THE SWIFTHNESS OF LIGHT THE LIZARD-MEN STRIKE! HORDES OF THEM SWARM DOWN FROM THE TREES!



THE ROCKET FIGHTS BACK, BUT HE IS OVERPOWERED!



THE KING'S ADVISER SPEAKS—



THE QUEEN IS OF RARE BEAUTY... MAKE HER YOUR WIFE!

YES! SHE MAKE GOOD WIFE, BUT HIM, HE MAKE GOOD FOOD FOR LIZARD-MEN!

THE LIZARD-MEN LEAD THEIR CAPTIVES TOWARD THEIR UNDERGROUND CITY!



WHEN SUDDENLY...



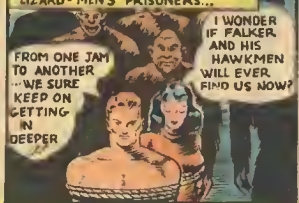
THE APE-MEN!

THE APE-MEN... A SAVAGE TRIBE OF UN-CIVILIZED TREE-DWELLERS... DROP DOWN ON THE COWARDLY LIZARD-MEN!

A BRIEF FIGHT - AND THE LIZARD-MEN ARE ROUTED!



THE APE-MEN MAKE OFF WITH THE LIZARD-MEN'S PRISONERS...



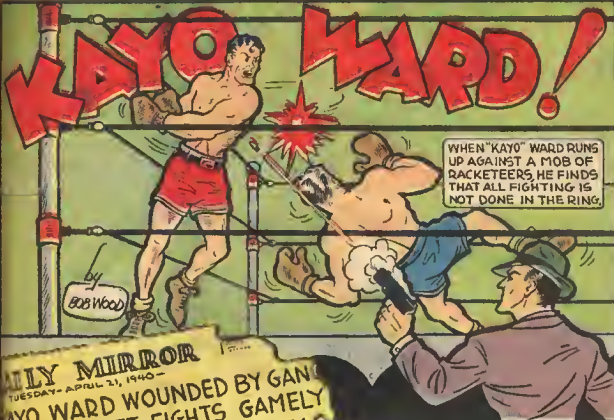
FROM ONE JAM TO ANOTHER... WE SURE KEEP ON GETTING IN DEEPER

I WONDER IF FALKER AND HIS HAWKMAN WILL EVER FIND US NOW?

WHAT FURTHER ADVENTURES AWAIT THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS?

READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS FOR THEIR ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF THE APE-MEN!

TWO NEW FEATURES IN MAY TOP NOTCH COMICS. GALAHAD-KNIGHT AND CRUSADER SHANGHI SHERIDEN!



DAILY MIRROR
 TUESDAY - APRIL 21, 1940 -
**KAYO WARD WOUNDED BY GAN-
 ER'S BULLET, FIGHTS GAMELY
 -K.O.'S SOCKER BENSON IN
 RING EXPERTS HAIL WARD AS MOD-
 MARVEL-WATCH OUT JOE LEW!**

BY PHIL STURM—
 THE GREATEST EXHIBITION OF COURAGE AND F-
 EVER SEEN BY THIS WRITER BROUGHT VICTO-
 KAYO WARD LAST NIGHT AT MADISON SQUARE
 DEN—WITH A SERIOUS BULLET WOUND IN HIS LE-
 KAYO SHOWED SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH TO
 SEND SOCKER BENSON TO THE CANVAS IN TH-
 MIDDLE OF THE EIGHTH ROUND—FOR KEEPS
 THE EX-STEEL MILL WORKER SURPRISED
 SON AND 19,000 SPECTATORS WHEN HE
 ING THE FIGHT AGAIN- EN



LET'S STOP AT THE SANDLOT AND WATCH THE KIDS PLAY BALL.

GOOD - MAYBE BILLY WILL BE THERE.



KAYO AND CONNIE START FOR HOME.

I SAID IT WAS A FOUL BALL!

THAT'S A LIE, RED - YOU KNOW IT WASN'T!



-MEANWHILE, KAYO'S KID BROTHER BILLY IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH RED-

BECAUSE YOUR BROTHER'S A FIGHTER-I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

OUCH!



C'MON-PUT UP YOUR DUKES - ARE YOU SCARED?

DON'T WORRY-NOBODY SOCKS ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

C'MON BILLY!



LOOKS LIKE A FIGHT!

WHY IT'S BILLY - THAT BIG BOY WILL HURT HIM!



AS BILLY AND RED FIGHT IT OUT, KAYO AND CONNIE ARRIVE

GOSH-I BETTER STOP THEM!



BILLY-STOP IT!

ATTABOY-BILLY!



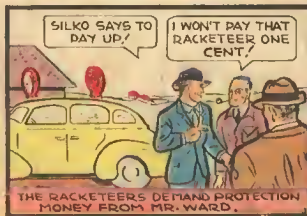
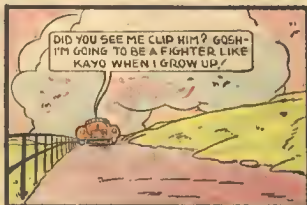
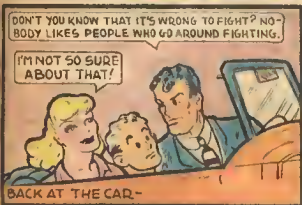
BILLY SENDS RED SPRAWLING TO THE GROUND.

THINK YOU'RE A TOUGH GUY - HITTING A LITTLE KID!

NOW-YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT!



JUST THEN REDS OLDER BROTHER RUSHES UP THINKING IT WAS KAYO WHO HIT HIS BROTHER.



THIS OUGHT TO REMIND YOU THAT WHEN
SILKO SAYS SOMETHING HE MEANS BUSINESS!



REFUSING TO PAY - SILKO'S MOBSTERS
BEAT UP KAYO'S FATHER

WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW SO DON'T TRY
ANY FUNNY WORK - IT WON'T BE HEALTHY!



C'MON, SLUG
HE'LL CHANGE
HIS MIND BY
TOMORROW!

GOSH -
WHERE'S
POP?

I GUESS HE'S A
LITTLE BUSY.



MEANWHILE, AT THE WARD'S HOME...

IT'S POP!
HE'S HURT!

JOHN
WHAT'S WRONG?



MR. WARD COMES HOME BADLY BRUISED AND BATTERED

SILKO'S MEN DID IT BECAUSE I
REFUSED TO PAY PROTECTION
MONEY. THEY'RE COMING BACK
TOMORROW.



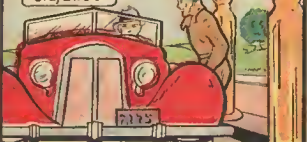
AS KAYO'S
MOTHER GIVES
MR WARD
FIRST AID,
KAYO AND
CONNIE
DISCUSS
THE
MATTER.

DON'T GO TO THE POLICE
THOSE MEN WILL ONLY DO
WORSE TO YOU - FATHER!

THEN I'LL JUST
HAVE TO TAKE
CARE OF THIS
MYSELF!



CHECK YOUR
OIL, SIR?



THE FOLLOWING DAY KAYO TAKES CARE
OF HIS FATHER'S GAS STATION.

AND SEE THAT YOU GET THE DOUGH
THIS TIME - I'LL WAIT HERE IN THE CAR

LEAVE IT TO
US - BOSS.



SILKO AND HIS MEN ARRIVE AT THE GAS
STATION, DETERMINED TO COLLECT THE MONEY.

KAYO FACES THE THUGS AS THEY APPROACH

HERE THEY COME-AND IF THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, THEY'LL FIND IT!

THIS MAY NOT BE
SO EASY BOYS-
LOOKS LIKE THE
OLD MAN TOOK
A DAY OFF!



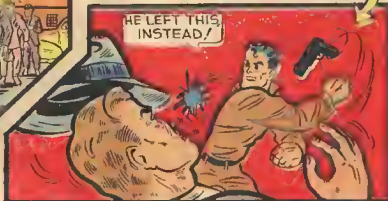
DID YOUR OLD MAN
LEAVE ANY DOUGH
FOR US?

NO, BUT...

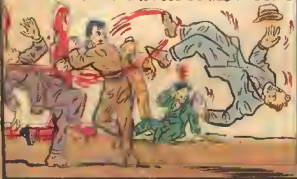


AS THE THUG SPEAKS...

HE LEFT THIS
INSTEAD!



AS THE THUGS OPEN FIRE UPON HIM KAYO TEARS
INTO THEM WITH A FEROCIOUS SERIES OF BLOWS



I'LL TEACH YOU
TO STEAL FROM
HONEST PEOPLE!



KAYO FINISHES OFF THE LAST THUG

NICE WORK KAYO-YOU
ROUNDED UP SILKO'S MOB!

SERVES THEM
RIGHT!



ATTRACTED BY THE SHOTS, THE POLICE
COME RUSHING IN TO TAKE OVER.

IT'S SILKO-HE'S
GETTING AWAY!



KAYO-WHAT'S WRONG?
QUICK-FOLLOW THAT CAR UP AHEAD!

JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME CONNIE DRIVES UP AS KAYO RUSHES TO THE CAR -

FASTER-CONNIE PULL UP ASIDE OF HIM

A MAD PURSUIT FOLLOWS WITH KAYO AND CONNIE STEADILY GAINING ON SILKO'S BEHIND

AND NOW TO SETTLE WITH YOU-BROTHER RAT!

CONNIE DOES A MASTERFUL PEACE OF DRIVING, AND AS THE CARS ARE NECK AND NECK, KAYO LEAPS MADLY THROUGH THE AIR.

HEY-YOU'DE HEADED FOR THE CLIFF!

AS THE TWO MEN GRAPPLE, SILKO LOSES CONTROL OF THE CAR AND THEY HEAD FOR THE CLIFF!

I SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU IN THE CAR, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO GOOD FOR YOU!

KAYO THINKS FAGT, AND OPENING THE DOOR, HE YANKS SILKO FROM THE CAR, BUT DOES NOT REALIZE

HERE'S A PRESENT FOR YOU!

GREAT WORK-YOU'VE CAPTURED THE WHOLE GANG

JUST THEN THE POLICE ARRIVE

YOU WERE WONDERFUL, DARLING!

GOSH-I WONDER WHY LEW HASN'T WRITTEN?

LATER - AT KAYO'S HOUSE -

HEY, KAYO IT'S LEW CALLING FROM NEW YORK, SAYS HE HAS SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

6 JUST THEN THE TELEPHONE RINGS - BILLY ANSWERS...

WHAT NEWS

DOES LEW BLACK HAVE FOR KAYO?

DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE

BY P.P.P. COMICS

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!

JUNE ISSUE
NO. 4
ON SALE
APRIL 10TH



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TODAYS FORCES OF EVIL -

CORPORAL COLLINS - INFANTRYMAN / TY GOR - SON OF
THE TIGER / GYPSY JOHNSON - ADVENTURER / LOOP
LOGAN - AIR ACE / DOC STRONG - AND THE ISLE OF
RIGHT / THE FOX - DETECTIVE / THE GREEN FALCON -
KNIGHT AND CRUSADER.

DON'T FAIL TO GET YOUR COPY OF THE JUNE ISSUE NO. 4 BLUE RIBBON
COMICS! ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS ABOUT APRIL 10TH

BENTLEY

of SCOTLAND YARD

AND THE HUNCHBACK HORROR

AMONG INSPECTOR BENTLEY'S STRANGEST ADVENTURES WAS THAT WHICH BEFELL HIM AT THE BETHROTHAL PARTY OF THE YOUNG EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE TO THE LADY BRENDA, WHERE HE HEARD THE OLD LEGEND OF THE CRACKENTHORPE CURSE---

by SAM COOPER

YOU SAY, THEN, EARL, THAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS FAMILY LEGEND?

IF I DID, INSPECTOR BENTLEY, I WOULDN'T BE SO HAPPY NOW!

I WOULDN'T, EITHER

ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, ONE OF THE CRACKENTHORPES WAS A WIZARD. HE NEEDED TREASURE--AND EVOKED A DEMON!

THE EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE TELLS THE STORY OF THE CURSE.

THE MONEY WAS GIVEN FOUNDING OUR FAMILY FORTUNE--- BUT THE DEMON DEMANDED A STRANGE SORT OF RETURN!

THE BRIDE OF EACH HEIR TO THE TITLE MUST GO TO THE CLOSED ROOM IN THE TOWER ABOVE HERE--AND MAKE HER BOW TO THE DEMON! THEY SAY MANY A BRIDE WAS SCARED TO DEATH!

OF COURSE THE OLD SUPERSTITION HASN'T BEEN FOLLOWED IN CENTURIES!

DOESN'T IT FRIGHTEN YOU LADY BRENDA?

NOT A BIT-- I'D FACE THE DEMON ANY TIME!

THE INTEREST OF THE PARTY IS ROUSED...

LET'S SEE YOU DO IT!

I DARE YOU, BRENDA!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT!

LADY BRENDA TAKES THE DARE!

ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING UP TO CALL ON MR. HUNCHBACKED DEMON!

YOU SAY IT'S ONLY A LEGEND-- BUT AREN'T YOU A TRIFLE SHAKY!

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I AM, INSPECTOR!

BELOW, THE EARL AND BENTLEY TALK, WHEN...

HELP! HELP!

IT'S BRENDA!

LET'S GO!

I'M COMING, BRENDA!

I'LL SAVE YOU, DEAR!

OH---THAT HORRIBLE THING!

THE EARL REACHES THE HAUNTED ROOM FIRST---

UGH!

STOP, WHATEVER YOU ARE!

THE ROOM'S EMPTY!

AND THE DEMON ---VANISHED!



LADY BRENDA, YOUR FIANCE IS DEAD!

OH! AND HERE COMES HIS BROTHER LIONEL-- AND--

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?



YOU SAY HIS LORDSHIP IS DEAD INSPECTOR? I'M HIS COUSIN, OSBERT BEALS, AND THIS IS HIS BROTHER, LIONEL!

AND I AM THE BUTLER, SIR, ---WIGGINS! MY POOR MASTER!



HMMM, ALL UP HERE AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER!

OH, NO SIR! I WAS DOWNSTAIRS SERVING THE GUESTS-- MR. OSBERT WAS THERE TOO WHEN LADY BRENDA CAME UP, BUT NOT MR. LIONEL!

WIGGINS AND I RAN UP AFTER YOU!



I'LL SMASH YOUR SNEERING FACE OSBERT!

EASY GENTLEMEN ---THERE'S BEEN ONE MURDER ALREADY



WHERE WERE YOU LIONEL?

I WONDER! YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH BRENDA, WERENT YOU?

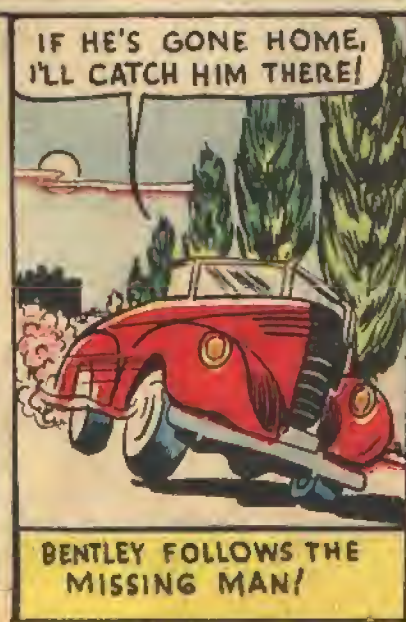
I WAS UP HERE-- IN MY ROOM, BUT I DIDNT KILL MY BROTHER!



WHEN HELP ARRIVES, BENTLEY MAKES A DISCOVERY!

GUARD THE DOORS MEN! KEEP THE GUESTS HERE -- WAIT, THE EARL'S BROTHER, LIONEL, HAS DISAPPEARED!

HE LEFT BEFORE THE POLICE CAME, IN-- SPECTOR! HE LIVES IN LONDON!



IF HE'S GONE HOME, I'LL CATCH HIM THERE!

BENTLEY FOLLOWS THE MISSING MAN!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN OFF LIKE THAT MR. LIONEL

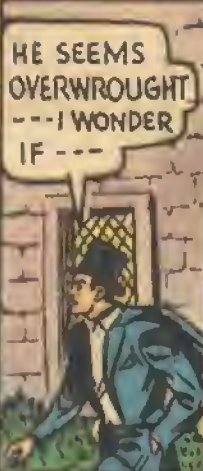
I DIDN'T KILL MY BROTHER!

YOU SHOULD HELP ME, NOW YOU'RE EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE... AND THEY SAY YOU LOVED YOUR BROTHERS FIANCEE

YOU THINK I KILLED HIM FOR THE TITLE--OR BRENDA? I DENY IT!



HE SEEMS OVERWROUGHT --- I WONDER IF ---



AFTER MUCH FRUITLESS QUESTIONING, BENTLEY LEAVES, WHEN---



--A WEIRD ASSAILANT DROPS UPON HIM!

WHAT A WALLOP!



A POWERFUL BLOW FELS THE INSPECTOR, BUT ---



TAKE THAT!

--- HE STILL FIGHTS BACK!

YOU HIT TOO HARD TO BE A SPIRIT!



WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I'VE BEEN THINKING OVER WHAT YOU SAID--- I'M COMING BACK WITH YOU --- HAS THERE BEEN TROUBLE?



LIONEL SUDDENLY GREETS HIM AT THE DOOR!

I'LL FACE ANY CHARGES-- BUT I INSIST THAT I'M INNOCENT!

I THINK EVERYTHING WILL BE SETTLED SOON!



THE TWO SPEED BACK TO CRACKENTHORPE MANOR

I'VE THOUGHT IT OUT-- WE CAN REDUCE THE SUSPECTS TO THE THREE MEN WHO WERE UPSTAIRS--- LIONEL, OSBERT AND THE BUTLER!

BUT MR. OSBERT AND I WERE DOWN STAIRS AT THE TIME



BENTLEY NARROWS THE FIELD OF SUSPECTS!



MAYBE SO-- BUT LET'S LOOK INTO THAT HAUNTED ROOM FIRST!



NOTHING HERE! JUST AS I THOUGHT THE WALL SOUNDS HOLLOW!

THEY RE-ENTER THE STRANGE CHAMBER OF DEATH!



LADY BRENDA, DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE WIGGINS AND OSBERT WERE JUST BEFORE YOU CAME UP HERE? WHY-WIGGINS WAS SERVING THE GUESTS-- OSBERT SAT BESIDE THE FIREPLACE!



YOU ADMIT YOU WERE UP HERE IN YOUR ROOM AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER?

YES I WAS!

HE WAS HERE WHEN WIGGINS AND I CAME UP THE STAIRS!



WHAT WOULD THE EARL'S DEATH MEAN TO YOU ALL?

I WAS THE HEIR-- EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT!

I WAS MENTIONED FOR A THOUSAND POUNDS IN HIS WILL-- I GET NOTHING-- I'M ONLY THE COUSIN!



OH LIONEL! I HOPE IT ISN'T YOU!

I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD, DEAR--- BUT IF YOU CARE--

WAIT!



I KNOW WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME AND I CAN PROVE IT!

YOU CAN?

BENTLEY KNOWS THE MURDERER OF THE EARL OF CRACKENTHORPE--DO YOU?
Make Your Choice:
WAS IT WIGGINS THE BUTLER?...
LIONEL, HIS BROTHER AND HEIR?...
OSBERT, HIS COUSIN?...
MIGHT IT HAVE BEEN LADY BRENDA HIS FIANCEE?.....

MARK X AFTER THE NAME OF THE ONE YOU THINK GUILTY; THEN TURN TO THE LAST PAGE OF THIS STORY AND SEE HOW BENTLEY SOLVED THE CRIME!

BENTLEY BEGINS TO SHOW THE WAY OF THE CRIME!

LOOK! HERE'S WHERE THE MONSTER DISAPPEARED --INTO THIS HIDDEN CORRIDOR! I SUSPECTED SOME SUCH DEVICE!



BY JOVE HE DID!

HERES THE RIG HE WORE TO FRIGHTEN BRENDA, AND KILL THE EARL!



LOOK! HERE'S AN IRON GLOVE THAT WOULD KILL ANYBODY WITH A BLOW!

BLESS MY SOUL, YES!



THIS PASSAGE LEADS DOWN TO THE HALL BELOW ---TO THE FIREPLACE!



YOU DID IT---YOU KNEW THE LEGEND AND THIS PASSAGE---SLIPPED UP BY WAY OF THE FIRE-PLACE!



WITH THE EARL DEAD AND LIONEL EXECUTED FOR HIS MURDER, YOU'D COME INTO THE TITLE! SO YOU KILLED HIM

---TRIED TO FRAME LIONEL!

WELL--



YES, AND THEN FOLLOWED BENTLEY TO MY PLACE, TO INCRIMINATE ME FURTHER WITH YOUR ATTACK ON HIM!

I DID IT, YES --BUT I'LL DASH OUT YOUR BRAINS!

NO--ONCE TONIGHT IS ENOUGH!



ALL THIS AWFUL EXPERIENCE SHOWED ME THAT I REALLY CARED FOR LIONEL!

ONLY DO YOUR DUTY BY YOUR NEW TITLE---AND

HOW CAN I THANK YOU INSPECTOR?

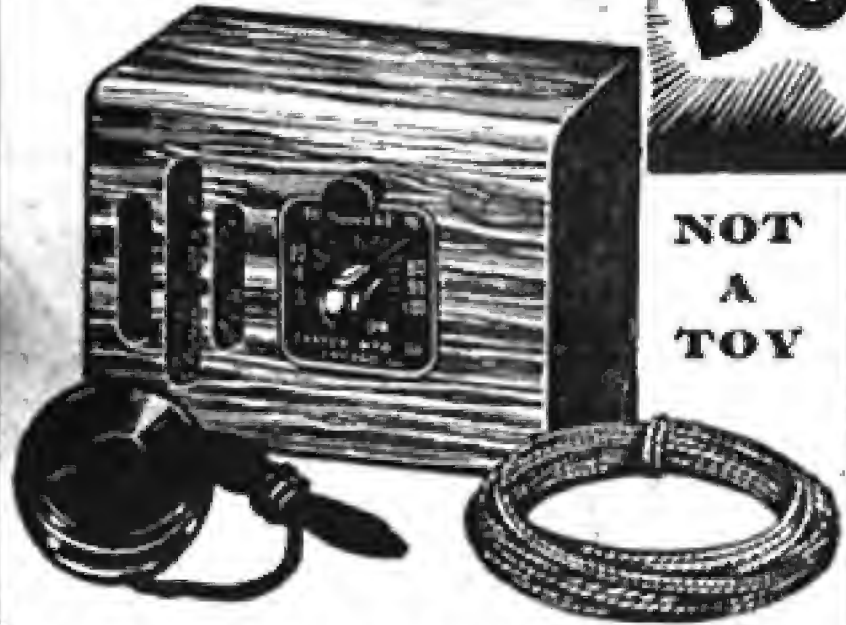
BY LADY BRENDA!



AND AGAIN INSPECTOR BENTLEY HAS STRUCK A CRUSHING BLOW TO EVIL AND LAWLESSNESS!

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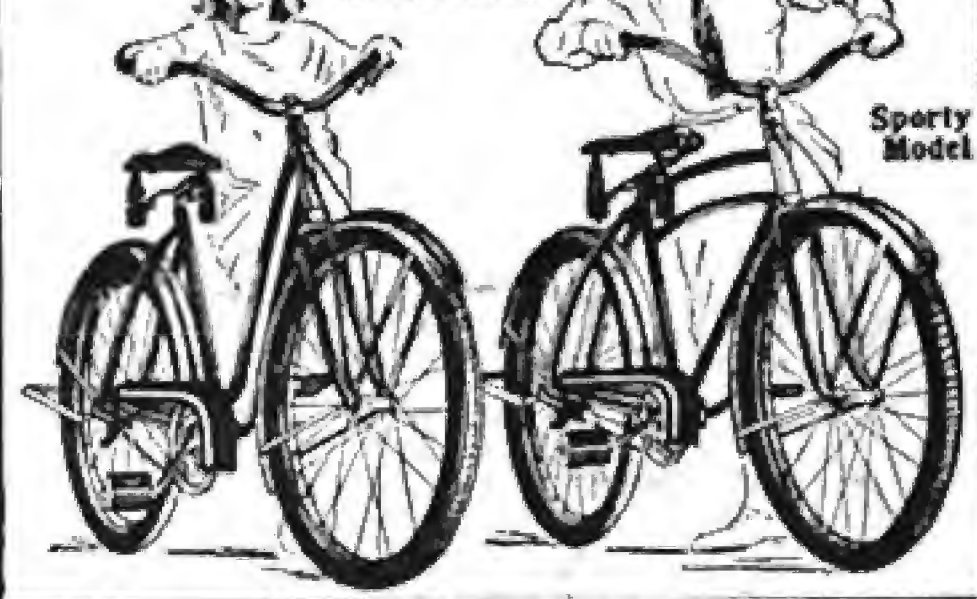
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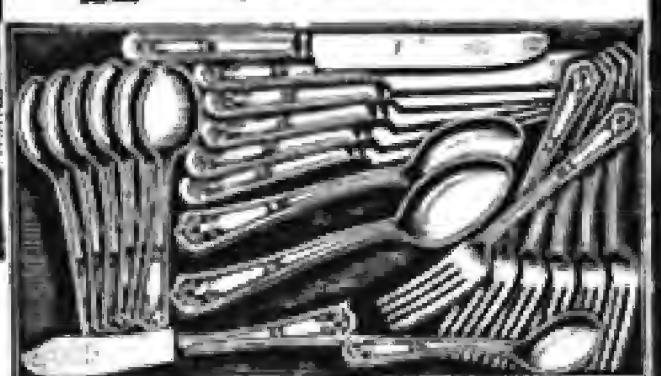
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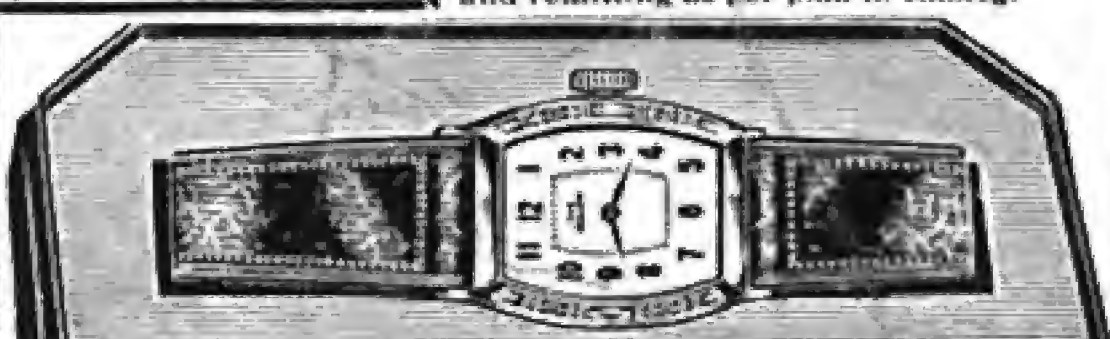
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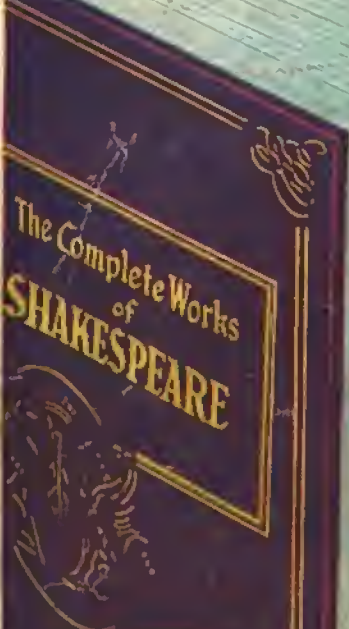
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